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attention to the shape of names tends to this result. The specific name of the house-wren is *aëdon* not *ædon*; the generic name of the wood-warblers is *Dendrocæa*, not *Dendroica*. Occasional airing of the Greek roots is as good for the health of the outgrowing words, as stirring the soil about the roots of a tree is for its vigor. In writing *Mniotilla* instead of the customary *Mniotilta*, did Mr. Brewster intend to revert to the original Vieillotian spelling? For that is the way Vieillot spells the word, if we remember rightly, in the *Encyc. Meth.*—E. C.

MORSE'S FIRST BOOK OF ZOOLOGY.¹—This charming little book will, we imagine, be immensely liked by young people, whether they use it as a text-book or receive it as a holiday present. It is designed for boys and girls, and presupposes an entire ignorance of animals on the part of the student. The plan is to teach by a study of the objects themselves. The writer tells young people how and where to look for specimens. After an excursion in search of shells, insects, etc., the author as it were, sits down by the reader with his or her hands full of the different objects, and draws their attention to the difference between them, and to the main points in their structure. There is little method in the plan of the book, and the reader is not bewildered with a "natural system" before he has learned something about the animals composing it.

The drawings are with few exceptions original, while all have been engraved expressly for the book. They add much to the attractiveness of the text. The illustrations of the parts of insects, the mode of growth of shells, and the anatomy of vertebrates, are strikingly original. The chapter on vertebrates presents matter that we think will be new to many teachers of comparative anatomy. The book is sumptuously printed and bound.

BOTANY.

SEQUOIA SEMPERVIRENS.—At a recent meeting of the California Academy of Sciences, Dr. A. W. Saxe made a preliminary report on a grove of colossal redwood trees that have been discovered on the course of the San Lorenzo, which takes its rise near Saratoga, in Santa Clara County, and debouches into the Bay of Monterey,

¹ First Book of Zoology. By Edward S. Morse, Ph.D. New York. D. Appleton & Co., 1875. 12mo. pp. 190, with 158 woodcuts. \$1.25.

at Santa Cruz. The trees are in a forest around the head-waters of the stream. One of them eclipses all that have been discovered on the Pacific Coast. Its circumference as high as a man can reach, standing and passing a tape line around, is a few inches less than one hundred and fifty feet. This is beyond the measurement of any of the *Sequoias (gigantea)* in the Calaveras Grove. The height is estimated at one hundred and sixty feet, and a part of the top lying on the ground riven off by lightning, or a tornado, is over one hundred feet in length. The other trees in the vicinity are not as large, but all are of immense girth. Dr. Saxe promised to get information more in detail from the President of a flume company in that section.

This region has but recently been explored, and what other marvels of vegetation it contains, remains to be seen. The stumps of redwood trees of immense proportions, have been reported, from time to time, to the Academy, by explorers in the Mt. Diablo range along the hills back of Oakland, but now we are likely to have further discoveries of these majestic conifers in all their glory, height, diameter and foliage.—R. E. C. S.

SULLIVANTIA OHIONIS, Torr. & Gray.—I have just been collecting a large quantity of this rare and beautiful little plant. It grows in great abundance about four miles from the college, in a dark, well-wooded ravine, known as "Clifty Ravine." It is found clinging to the damp limestone cliffs just above Clifty Falls, and is rapidly spreading down the ravine. It is a charming little plant and is invariably found with its roots buried in a bunch of damp moss, as if to prove to us that it belongs to Dr. Sullivan and loves what he did. In the description, as given in Gray's Manual, there is omitted one character which is always the first one to attract the attention, even of the casual observer. Upon showing fresh specimens to persons I have never failed to hear the exclamation, "what pretty *shiny* leaves!" And it is a fact, for there is always a beautiful gloss upon the leaves as if covered with a fine coat of varnish. Clifty Falls, Jefferson Co., Ind., must now be added to Highland Co., Ohio, and the Wisconsin river.—JOHN M. COULTER, *Hanover College, Hanover, Ind., July 21st.*

PUCCINIA MALVACEARUM, has probably been for many years in the United States. Some thirty years ago I found the hollyhock in all old gardens where it used to self-sow, annually, and take

care of itself generally. A few years after I endeavored to introduce the improved "Cater" hollyhocks from England. They did remarkably well the first year, but the next were attacked by a small fungus which destroyed the leaves almost as fast as they appeared; and it was with difficulty they could be had to retain strength enough to flower at all. Finally, they were all destroyed before flowering, as were the common single ones in the gardens. Since the discovery in England that *Puccinia malvacearum* causes a disease like this, I have endeavored to find a specimen in order to identify the species, but I have failed, as the whole race of hollyhock about here seems to have disappeared.—THOMAS MEEHAN.

ZOOLOGY.

OPORORNIS FORMOSUS BREEDING IN EASTERN NEW YORK.—A few days ago, while out collecting with a friend, we were attracted by the alarm note of a bird, which he shot, and it proved to be a male of the Kentucky warbler. In passing out of the woods, which were overgrown with ferns and other perennials, we started a female from the ground, and after a careful search we found the nest, which was slightly elevated from the ground, composed of dry chestnut leaves and coarse grass, and lined with horse hair. The eggs, which were three in number, were white, thickly marked with small reddish-brown spots on the larger end. The nest was scarcely more than twenty feet from the public road. As I have not heard of its nest being found before in New York, I thought it might possibly be interesting to some of your readers.—A. K. FISHER, *Sing Sing, N. Y., June 19, 1875.*

THE PURPLE GALLINULE.—A fine specimen of the Purple Gallinule, was shot at "Henry's Pond," "South End" Rockport, Mass., on April 12th, by Mr. Robert Wendel.—G. P. WHITMAN.

CALOPTENUS SPRETUS IN MASSACHUSETTS.—Specimens not differing in any appreciable respect on comparison with Californian examples occurred in September at Amherst, Mass.—A. S. PACKARD, Jr.

GEOLOGY.

INTERESTING FOSSILS FROM ILLINOIS.—At a recent meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Professor Cope